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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

YAN DONG, SARA HADI, and JUN  
IMAIZUMI, individually and on behalf  
of all others similarly situated,

**Plaintiffs,**

V.

TOYOTA MOTOR SALES U.S.A.,  
INC., a California corporation;  
TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH  
AMERICA, INC., a California  
corporation,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:23-cv-09613-JLS-SSC

**[PROPOSED] STIPULATED  
PROTECTIVE ORDER<sup>1</sup>**

Magistrate Judge: Hon. Stephanie S.  
Christensen

<sup>1</sup> This Stipulated Protective Order is substantially based on the model protective order provided under Magistrate Judge Stephanie S. Christensen's Procedures as of July 24, 2023.

1 Plaintiffs Yan Dong, Sara Hadi and Jun Imaizumi (“Plaintiffs”) and  
2 Defendants Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A, Inc. and Toyota North America, Inc.  
3 (collectively “Toyota”), by and through their respective counsel, and pursuant to Rule  
4 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, hereby stipulate and agree to the terms  
5 of this Stipulated Protective Order (hereinafter “Protective Order” or “Order”).  
6

7 **1. INTRODUCTION**

8       1.1 Purposes and Limitations. Discovery in this action is likely to involve  
9 production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special  
10 protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than  
11 prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby  
12 stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order.  
13 The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all  
14 disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public  
15 disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled  
16 to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles.

17       1.2 Good Cause Statement. This action is likely to involve trade secrets,  
18 valuable research, design, development, commercial, financial, technical and/or  
19 proprietary information for which special protection from public disclosure and  
20 from use for any purpose other than prosecution of this action is warranted. Such  
21 confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of, among other  
22 things, confidential business or financial information, information regarding  
23 confidential business practices, or other confidential research, design,  
24 development, or commercial information (including information implicating  
25 privacy rights of third parties), information otherwise generally unavailable to the  
26 public, or which may be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under  
27 state or federal statutes, court rules, case decisions, common law, or any foreign  
28 privacy laws. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the

1 prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, to  
2 adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep confidential, to  
3 ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of such material in  
4 preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling at the end of  
5 the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such information  
6 is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that information will not be  
7 designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so designated  
8 without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential, non-public  
9 manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of the public record of  
10 this case.

11       1.3    Acknowledgment of Procedure for Filing Under Seal. The parties  
12 further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated  
13 Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal;  
14 Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards  
15 that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material  
16 under seal.

17       There is a strong presumption that the public has a right of access to judicial  
18 proceedings and records in civil cases. In connection with non-dispositive motions,  
19 good cause must be shown to support a filing under seal. *See Kamakana v. City and*  
20 *Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1176 (9th Cir. 2006), *Phillips ex rel. Ests. of Byrd*  
21 *v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 307 F.3d 1206, 1210–11 (9th Cir. 2002), *Makar-Welbon v.*  
22 *Sony Elecs., Inc.*, 187 F.R.D. 576, 577 (E.D. Wis. 1999) (even stipulated protective  
23 orders require good cause showing), and a specific showing of good cause or  
24 compelling reasons with proper evidentiary support and legal justification, must be  
25 made with respect to Protected Material that a party seeks to file under seal. The  
26 parties' mere designation of Disclosure or Discovery Material as CONFIDENTIAL  
27 or HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL does not—without the submission of competent  
28 evidence by declaration, establishing that the material sought to be filed under seal

1 qualifies as confidential, privileged, or otherwise protectable—constitute good  
2 cause.

3 Further, if a party requests sealing related to a dispositive motion or trial,  
4 which does not include discovery or class certification motions, then compelling  
5 reasons, not only good cause, for the sealing must be shown, and the relief sought  
6 shall be narrowly tailored to serve the specific interest to be protected. *See Pintos v.*  
7 *Pac. Creditors Ass'n*, 605 F.3d 665, 677–79 (9th Cir. 2010). For each item or type  
8 of information, document, or thing sought to be filed or introduced under seal in  
9 connection with a dispositive motion or trial, the party seeking protection must  
10 articulate compelling reasons, supported by specific facts and legal justification, for  
11 the requested sealing order. Again, competent evidence supporting the application  
12 to file documents under seal must be provided by declaration.

13 Any document that is not confidential, privileged, or otherwise protectable in  
14 its entirety will not be filed under seal if the confidential portions can be redacted. If  
15 documents can be redacted, then a redacted version for public viewing, omitting  
16 only the confidential, privileged, or otherwise protectable portions of the document,  
17 shall be filed. Any application that seeks to file documents under seal in their  
18 entirety should include an explanation of why redaction is not feasible.  
19

20 **2. DEFINITIONS**

21 2.1 Action: above captioned case.

22 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the  
23 designation of information or items under this Order.

24 2.3 "CONFIDENTIAL" Material: For purposes of this Order, information  
25 (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things  
26 considered to be "CONFIDENTIAL" Material include any information that a Party  
27 believes in good faith to be confidential or sensitive non-public information,  
28 including, but not limited to, trade secrets, research, design, development, financial,

1 technical, marketing, planning, personal, or commercial information, as such terms  
2 are used in Rule 26(c)(1)(G) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and any  
3 applicable case law interpreting Rule 26(c)(1)(G).

4       2.4    Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and In-House Counsel (as well as  
5 their support staff).

6       2.5    Court: Any federal Court having jurisdiction over any aspect of the  
7 within Action, including attorneys, employees, judges, magistrates, secretaries,  
8 special masters, stenographic reporters, staff, transcribers and all other personnel  
9 necessary to assist the Court in its function, and the jury.

10       2.6    Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or  
11 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as  
12 “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.”

13       2.7    Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless  
14 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,  
15 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced  
16 or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

17       2.8    Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter  
18 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as  
19 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

20       2.9    Final Disposition: the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses  
21 in this Action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the  
22 completion and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of  
23 this Action, including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for  
24 extension of time pursuant to applicable law.

25       2.10   “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” Material: for purposes of this Order,  
26 information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible  
27 things considered to be “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” Materials includes non-  
28 public product design and testing information or extremely sensitive, highly

1 confidential, non-public information, consisting either of trade secrets, proprietary,  
2 or other highly confidential business, financial, regulatory, or strategic information  
3 (including information regarding business plans, technical data, and non-public  
4 designs), the disclosure of which would create a substantial risk of competitive or  
5 business injury to the Producing Party. HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL shall also  
6 include materials containing “Personally Identifiable Information.”

7       2.11 In-House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this  
8 Action. In-House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other  
9 outside counsel.

10      2.12 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association,  
11 or other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

12      2.13 Outside Counsel of Record: counsel of record for the Parties,  
13 including all partners, members, and associate attorneys of such counsel’s law firms  
14 who are assisting in the personnel of such counsel who may be assisting counsel of  
15 record for the parties in the conduct of the Action, and all clerks, employees,  
16 independent contractors, consultants, investigators, paralegals, assistants,  
17 secretaries, staff and stenographic, computer, audio-visual and clerical employees  
18 and agents thereof when operating under the supervision of such partners or  
19 associate attorneys.

20      2.14 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,  
21 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their  
22 support staffs).

23      2.15 Personally Identifiable Information: any information that a party  
24 believes in good faith to be subject to federal, state or foreign data protection laws  
25 or other privacy obligations. Examples of such data protection laws include but are  
26 not limited to The Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6801 *et seq.* (financial  
27 information); The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, 45 CFR Part  
28 160 and Subparts A and E of Part 164 (medical information); the General Data

1 Protection Regulation (GDPR): Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European  
2 Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons  
3 with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such  
4 data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), OJ  
5 2016 L 119/1; Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act  
6 (PIPEDA), S.C. 2000, c. 5 (Canada personal information); The Federal Law on  
7 Protection of Personal Data held by Private Parties (published July 5, 2010)  
8 (Mexico personal information); and Act on the Protection of Personal Information  
9 (Japan personal information) and Japan's Protection of Personal Information Act  
10 (2023). Any party may redact Personally Identifiable Information that it claims, in  
11 good faith, requires protections under the terms of this Order. Personally  
12 Identifiable Information , however, shall not be redacted from Discovery Material  
13 to the extent it directly relates to or identifies an individual named as a party in this  
14 Litigation. Personally Identifiable Information of an individual named as a party  
15 shall otherwise receive the same protections and treatment afforded to other  
16 Protected Material under this Protective Order.

17       2.16 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or  
18 Discovery Material in this Action.

19       2.17 Professional Vendors: persons or entities, and their employees and  
20 subcontractors, that provide litigation-support services, including outside copying  
21 services, court reporters, stenographers, videotaping services, translating services,  
22 services to prepare exhibits or demonstrations, or companies engaged in the  
23 business of supporting computerized or electronic litigation discovery or trial  
24 preparation, that are retained by a Party or its counsel.

25       2.18 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is  
26 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL,” or which  
27 contains Personally Identifiable Information.

28

1           2.19 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery  
2 Material from a Producing Party.

3           **3. SCOPE**

4           This Stipulated Protective shall govern for pre-trial purposes the handling of  
5 all Disclosure or Discovery Material, including documents, depositions, deposition  
6 exhibits, interrogatory responses, responses to requests for admissions, responses to  
7 requests for production of documents, and all other discovery obtained pursuant to  
8 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure by or from a Party in connection with the  
9 Action.

10           The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only  
11 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or  
12 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or  
13 compilations of Protected Material that might reveal Protected Material; (3) any  
14 testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might  
15 reveal Protected Material; and (4) any notes, lists, memoranda, indices,  
16 compilations, data analyses, or other information prepared or based on an  
17 examination of Protected Material, that quote from or paraphrase Protected Material  
18 with such specificity that the Protected Material can be identified shall be accorded  
19 the same status of confidentiality as the underlying Protected Material from which  
20 they are made, shall be designated with the appropriate confidentiality legend, and  
21 shall be subject to all of the terms of this Protective Order.

22           Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the  
23 trial judge. This Stipulated Protective Order does not govern the use of Protected  
24 Material at trial.

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26           ///

27           ///

1     **4. TRIAL AND DURATION**

2                 The terms of this Stipulated Protective Order apply through Final Disposition  
3                 of the Action.

4                 Once a case proceeds to trial, information that was designated as  
5                 CONFIDENTIAL or maintained pursuant to this Stipulated Protective Order and  
6                 used or introduced as an exhibit at trial becomes public and will be presumptively  
7                 available to all members of the public, including the press, unless compelling  
8                 reasons supported by specific factual findings to proceed otherwise are made to the  
9                 trial judge in advance of the trial. *See Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1180–81  
10                 (distinguishing “good cause” showing for sealing documents produced in discovery  
11                 from “compelling reasons” standard when merits-related documents are part of  
12                 court record). Accordingly, for such materials, the terms of this Stipulated  
13                 Protective Order do not extend beyond the commencement of the trial.

14                 Even after Final Disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations  
15                 imposed by this Stipulated Protective Order shall remain in effect until a  
16                 Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs.

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18     **5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

19                 **5.1      Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.**  
20                 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under  
21                 this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that  
22                 qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for  
23                 protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written  
24                 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents, items,  
25                 or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably  
26                 within the ambit of this Order.

27                 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations  
28                 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper

1 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose  
2 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating  
3 Party to sanctions.

4 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it  
5 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must  
6 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

7       **5.2     Manner and Timing of Designations.** Except as otherwise provided in  
8 this Stipulated Protective Order (*see, e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(a)  
9 below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that  
10 qualifies for protection under this Stipulated Protective Order must be clearly so  
11 designated before the material is disclosed or produced. Designation in conformity  
12 with this Stipulated Protective Order requires:

13       For information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but  
14 excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the  
15 Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY  
16 CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains protected material. If only a portion or  
17 portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also  
18 must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings  
19 in the margins) to include:

- 20           a. **TIFF Documents.** In the case of documents or other materials (apart  
21 from depositions or other pre-trial testimony), designation shall be made  
22 by affixing the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY  
23 CONFIDENTIAL" to all pages in each document containing any  
24 Confidential Material or Highly Confidential Material, respectively.
- 25           b. **Native Documents.** With respect to documents or materials containing  
26 Covered Information produced in Native Format, the Designating Party  
27 shall include the highest level of confidentiality designation in the  
28 filename.

1                   c. **Non-Written Materials.** Any non-text Covered Information (e.g.,  
2 videotape, audio tape, computer disk, etc.) may be designated as such by  
3 labeling the outside of such material as “CONFIDENTIAL” or  
4 “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.” In the event a Receiving Party generates  
5 any “hard copy” transcription or printout from any such designated non-  
6 written materials, the person who generates such “hard copy”  
7 transcription or printout shall take reasonable steps to maintain the  
8 confidentiality of such materials and properly identify and stamp each  
9 page of such material as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY  
10 CONFIDENTIAL” consistent with the original designation by the  
11 Producing Party.

12                  With respect to any deposition, confidential treatment may be invoked by  
13 designating specific pages and/or lines as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY  
14 CONFIDENTIAL” on the record at the deposition, or by serving such designations  
15 within 30 days after receipt of the transcript of the deposition in which the  
16 designations are made. All deposition transcripts shall be treated as HIGHLY  
17 CONFIDENTIAL for 30 days following receipt of the transcript.

18                  For information produced in some form other than documentary and for any  
19 other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the  
20 exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the  
21 “CONFIDENTIAL” legend. If only a portion or portions of the information  
22 warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the  
23 protected portion(s).

24                 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent  
25 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive  
26 the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material.  
27 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable  
28

1 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this  
2 Stipulated Protective Order.

3       5.4     Disclosure Of Protected Material. The failure to designate Protected  
4 Material does not constitute a waiver of such claim and may be remedied by prompt  
5 supplemental written notice upon discovery of the disclosure, with the effect that  
6 such Protected Material will be subject to the protections of this Order. The  
7 Receiving Party shall exercise good faith efforts to ensure that copies made of  
8 Protected Material produced to it, and copies made by others who obtained such  
9 Protected Material directly or indirectly from the Receiving Party, include the  
10 appropriate confidentiality legend, to the same extent that the Protected Material  
11 has been marked with the appropriate confidentiality legend by the Producing Party.

12       5.5     Materials Prepared Based Upon Protected Material. Any notes, lists,  
13 memoranda, indices, compilations, or other materials prepared or based on an  
14 examination of Protected Material, that quote from or paraphrase Protected Material  
15 with such specificity that the Protected Material can be identified shall be accorded  
16 the same status of confidentiality as the underlying Protected Material from which  
17 they are made, shall be designated with the appropriate confidentiality legend, and  
18 shall be subject to all of the terms of this Protective Order.

19

20       **6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

21       6.1     Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a  
22 designation of confidentiality within 60 days of the Producing Party indicating that  
23 its production of documents pursuant to the document request in which the pertinent  
24 document was produced, is completed .

25       6.2     Challenge. A Party challenging the designation of any material as  
26 Confidential or Highly Confidential shall give written notice to the Designating  
27 Party. The Receiving Party must make de-designation requests in good faith. Mass,  
28 indiscriminate, or routinized requests for de-designation are prohibited. No Party is

1 obliged to challenge the disclosure, or designation thereof, and a failure to do so  
2 shall not preclude a subsequent challenge.

3         6.3     Meet and Confer. Upon receipt of the written objection, counsel for  
4 the Designating Party shall, within ten (10) business days, provide a written  
5 response to the objecting Party explaining the basis and supporting authority for the  
6 designation. The Parties shall meet and confer in good faith to attempt to resolve  
7 the dispute without resort to Court intervention. The burden of persuasion in any  
8 such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party. As part of that  
9 process, the Designating Party must assess whether designation of a portion of the  
10 material as “Confidential” is a viable alternative to designation of the entire  
11 document.

12         6.4     Discovery Motion. If no agreement is reached, the Producing Party  
13 shall have thirty (30) days from the date the challenge was made to commence the  
14 pre-motion conference outlined in the Hon. Stephanie S. Christensen’s Procedures  
15 and Schedules, available at [http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/judges-schedules-](http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/judges-schedules-procedures)  
16 procedures. If authorized to do so following a pre-motion conference, the Producing  
17 Party shall file and serve a motion pursuant to United States District Court Central  
18 District of California Local Rule 37-2 seeking an order prohibiting disclosure of the  
19 disputed material other than as permitted by this Protective Order. If the Producing  
20 Party does not initiate the pre-discovery motion conference process under Local  
21 Rule 37-2 within thirty (30) days of a challenge, the subject Confidential Material  
22 or Highly Confidential Material designation is effectively withdrawn.

23         6.5     Status of Challenged Designation Pending Judicial Determination.  
24 Any document or testimony as to which such a motion challenge is made shall  
25 continue to be treated as confidential until the Court renders a decision or the  
26 motion is otherwise resolved. In the event the Court rules that the challenged  
27 material is not Confidential or Highly Confidential, the Designating Party shall

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1 reproduce copies of all materials so designated without the Confidential or Highly  
2 Confidential label at the Designating Party's expense within ten business days.

3       6.6 Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to  
4 harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose  
5 the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived or  
6 withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to afford the  
7 material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the  
8 Producing Party's designation until the court rules on the challenge.

9

10     **7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

11       7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is  
12 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this  
13 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such  
14 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the  
15 conditions described in this Order. When the Action reaches a Final Disposition, a  
16 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below.

17       7.2 Disclosure of CONFIDENTIAL Information or Items.

18 Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating  
19 Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated  
20 "CONFIDENTIAL" only:

- 21           a. the Parties;
- 22           b. to the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this Action,  
23                  as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it  
24                  is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this Action;
- 25           c. to the officers, directors, and employees (including In-House  
26                  Counsel) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably  
27                  necessary for this Action;

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- 1                   d. to Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to  
2                   whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who  
3                   have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”  
4                   (Exhibit A);  
5                   e. to the court and its personnel;  
6                   f. to court reporters and their staff;  
7                   g. to professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and  
8                   Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary  
9                   for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and  
10                  Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);  
11                  h. to the author or recipient of a document containing the information  
12                  or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the  
13                  information;  
14                  i. during their depositions, to witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses,  
15                  in the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary,  
16                  provided: (1) the deposing party requests that the witness sign the  
17                  “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A); and  
18                  (2) the witness will not be permitted to keep any confidential  
19                  information unless they sign the “Acknowledgment and Agreement  
20                  to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the  
21                  Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed  
22                  deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected  
23                  Material may be separately bound by the court reporter and may not  
24                  be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated  
25                  Protective Order; and  
26                  j. to any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting  
27                  personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in  
28                  settlement discussions.

### 7.3 Persons Authorized to Receive "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL"

Material. Except as specifically provided for in this or subsequent Court orders, “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL” Materials or their contents may be disclosed, summarized, described, or otherwise communicated or made available in whole or in part only to the persons identified and conditions set forth in Paragraphs 7.2 (a)-(g) and (i); and (2) who has signed executing Exhibit A as described in herein.

Notwithstanding, the foregoing counsel may disclose Highly Confidential Material while on the record in a deposition taken in this Action to a witness provided; (i) counsel in good faith believes the witness has knowledge of the matters contained in the Highly Confidential Material (but only as to the subject matter to which the witness is reasonably believed to have knowledge; and (ii) counsel in good faith deems it necessary for the prosecution or defense of this Action to show the Highly Information to the witness. The witness shall sign the Exhibit A as described in herein before the material is disclosed. If a dispute arises regarding whether it is necessary for the prosecution or defense of the Action to show Highly Confidential Material to the witness, counsel for the parties present at the deposition shall meet and confer during the deposition in an attempt to resolve the dispute. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute, the Highly Confidential Material shall not be disclosed to the witness until such time that the Court can resolve the dispute.

**7.4 Security of Protected Material.** Any person in possession of another

Party's Protected Material shall exercise the same care with regard to the storage, custody, or use of Protected Material as they would apply to their own material of the same or comparable sensitivity. Receiving Parties must take reasonable precautions to protect Protected Material from loss, misuse and unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration and destruction, including but not limited to:

- a. Protected Material in electronic format shall be maintained in a secure litigation support site(s) that applies standard industry

1 practices regarding data security, including but not limited to  
2 application of access control rights to those persons entitled to  
3 access Protected Material under this Order;

- 4 b. An audit trail of use and access to litigation support site(s) shall be  
5 maintained while this Litigation, including any appeals, is pending;  
6 c. Any Protected Material downloaded from the litigation support  
7 site(s) in electronic format shall be stored only on device(s) (e.g.  
8 laptop, tablet, smartphone, thumb drive, portable hard drive) that  
9 are password protected and/or encrypted with access limited to  
10 persons entitled to access Protected Material under this Order. If the  
11 user is unable to password protect and/or encrypt the device, then  
12 the Protected Material shall be password protected and/or encrypted  
13 at the file level.
- 14 d. Protected Material in paper format is to be maintained in a secure  
15 location with access limited to persons entitled to access Protected  
16 Material under this Order; and
- 17 e. Summaries of Protected Material, including any lists,  
18 memorandum, indices or compilations prepared or based on an  
19 examination of Protected Material, that quote from or paraphrase  
20 Protected Material in a manner that enables it to be identified shall  
21 be accorded the same status of confidentiality as the underlying  
22 Protected Material.
- 23 f. If the recipient of Protected Material is shipping data in electronic  
24 format, the recipient shall encrypt the data prior to shipping and  
25 provide the encryption key in separate correspondence. If hard copy  
26 documents are shipped, the Receiving Party will ship the  
27 documents using secure packaging tape via Federal Express or UPS  
28 and retain a tracking number for the materials. If the Receiving

1 Party learns at any time that the Protected Material has been  
2 retrieved or viewed by unauthorized parties during shipment, it will  
3 immediately notify the Producing Party and take all reasonable  
4 measures to retrieve the improperly disclosed materials.

- 5 g. Absent notice and permission by the producing Party, the Receiving  
6 Party shall not use any application, software, or analytical solution  
7 that will transmit, transfer or allow access to any person, entity or  
8 organization not authorized to have access to Protected Material  
9 under the terms of this Order.
- 10 h. Absent notice to and permission from the producing Party, any  
11 person or entity authorized to have access to Protected Material  
12 under the terms of this Order shall not use or employ any  
13 application, service, or analytical software that will transfer,  
14 transmit, send or allow any external access to Protected Material (in  
15 whole or in part) unless such application, service or analytical  
16 software is containerized (*i.e.*, does not transmit any Protected  
17 Material, including parts or summaries thereof) to any external  
18 system or network for the purpose of analysis, use or the generation  
19 of text outputs in response to queries, has the ability to track all  
20 information in the system (including access), and does not  
21 otherwise allow access to information by unauthorized persons. For  
22 the avoidance of doubt, this restriction expressly applies to the use  
23 of public advanced large language models, “generative” AI tools,  
24 and other advanced AI systems, including but not limited to public  
25 versions of OpenAI GPT, ChatGPT3/4 *et seq.*, Google Gemini,  
26 Meta LLAMA, MidJourney, DALL-E, and Stable Diffusion.

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1       **8. EXCLUSION OF INDIVIDUALS FROM DEPOSITIONS**

2           Counsel shall have the right to exclude any person who is not authorized by  
3 this Order to receive documents or information designated as Protected Material  
4 from any deposition where testimony regarding Protected Material or the use of  
5 Protected Material is likely to arise.

6

7       **9. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED**  
8           **PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION**

9           If a Receiving Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other  
10 litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this  
11 Action as Protected Material that Party must:

- 12           a. promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall  
13            include a copy of the subpoena or court order;
- 14           b. promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to  
15            issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the  
16            subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification  
17            shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and
- 18           c. cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued  
19            by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

20           If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with  
21 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this  
22 action as Protected Material before a determination by the court from which the  
23 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party's  
24 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking  
25 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions  
26 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action  
27 to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

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1       **10. A NON-PARTY'S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE**  
2       **PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION**

3           10.1 Application. The terms of this Stipulated Protective Order are  
4 applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this Action and designated as  
5 Protected Material. Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with  
6 this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order.  
7 Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from  
8 seeking additional protections.

9           10.2 Notification. In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery  
10 request, to produce a Non-Party's Protected Material in its possession, and the Party  
11 is subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's  
12 Protected Material, then the Party shall:

13                  (a) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-  
14 Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality  
15 agreement with a Non-Party;

16                  (b) make the information requested available for inspection by the  
17 Non-Party, if requested.

18           10.3 Conditions of Production. If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective  
19 order from this court within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying  
20 information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's Protected Material  
21 responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective  
22 order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or  
23 control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a  
24 determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall  
25 bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected  
26 Material.

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1       **11. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

2           If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise (including  
3 breach of the security provisions set forth above), it has disclosed Protected  
4 Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated  
5 Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the  
6 Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve  
7 all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons  
8 to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d)  
9 request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to  
10 Be Bound” (Exhibit A).

11

12       **12. MISCELLANEOUS**

13           12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Stipulated Protective Order  
14 abridges the right of any person to seek its modification by the court in the future.

15           12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this  
16 Stipulated Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to  
17 object to disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not  
18 addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right  
19 to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this  
20 Stipulated Protective Order.

21           12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any  
22 Protected Material must comply with Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may only  
23 be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific  
24 Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material under seal  
25 is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information in the  
26 public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

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1       **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

2              After the Final Disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 2.8, within  
3        60 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must  
4        return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As  
5        used in this subdivision, “all Protected Material” includes all copies, abstracts,  
6        compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the  
7        Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the  
8        Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if  
9        not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that  
10       (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was  
11       returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any  
12       copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or  
13       capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel is  
14       entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition,  
15       and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial  
16       exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work  
17       product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies  
18       that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order  
19       as set forth in Section 4.

20

21       **14. PROTECTIVE ORDER REMAINS IN FORCE**

22              This Protective Order shall remain in force and effect until modified,  
23        superseded, or terminated. Unless otherwise ordered or agreed upon by the Parties,  
24        this Protective Order shall survive the termination of this Action. The Court retains  
25        jurisdiction even after termination of this Action to enforce this Protective Order  
26        and to make such amendments, modifications, deletions and additions to this  
27        Protective Order as the Court may from time to time deem appropriate.

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1       **15. VIOLATION**

2           Any violation of this Stipulated Protective Order may be punished by any and  
3 all appropriate measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or  
4 monetary sanctions.

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6       **IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.**

7           Dated:      November 6, 2024

8                            */s/ S. Martin Keleti*

9                            S. Martin Keleti (Bar #144208)  
10                            **KELETI LAW**  
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29                            Attorneys For Plaintiffs

1 Dated: November 6, 2024

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By /s/ Lisa R. Weddle

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Lisa R. Weddle  
Attorneys for Defendants  
Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and  
Toyota Motor North America, Inc.

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10 **FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

11 Dated: November 7, 2024

12   
HON. STEPHANIE S. CHRISTENSEN  
United States Magistrate Judge

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## EXHIBIT A

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, \_\_\_\_\_, [print or type full name], of \_\_\_\_\_, [print or type full address], \_\_\_\_\_ are under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the \_\_\_\_\_ Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for \_\_\_\_\_ Central District of California on [date] in the case of \_\_\_\_\_ [insert formal name of the \_\_\_\_\_] and the number and initials assigned to it by the court]. I agree to comply and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

16 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court  
17 for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this  
18 Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after  
19 termination of this action. I hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_, [print or  
20 type full name], of \_\_\_\_\_ [print or  
21 type full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of

1 process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of  
2 this Stipulated Protective Order.

3  
4 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

5 City and State where sworn and  
6 signed: \_\_\_\_\_

7 Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

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9 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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